

RESOLUTION
PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT
OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

During the war and since there has been considerable public discussion of the vital need for an efficient and effective American intelligence system which, both in peace and in war, would keep our government informed of the aims, capabilities, intentions, policies and actions of other nations. Certain progress has already been made in the development of such a system. Further progress will be made only as we develop that system along sound lines based on wartime and postwar experiences. As Congress is currently considering placing the present Central Intelligence Group on a statutory basis, it would appear profitable at this time to review some of the more important principles which should govern the organization and conduct of national intelligence.

Obviously the backbone of our intelligence system should continue to be the intelligence agencies already existing in the various government departments, particularly the State, War and Navy Departments. Over a period of years these departments have developed staffs and facilities to collect and evaluate the intelligence required for the making of each department's policies and decisions. It is estimated that well over 90% of the foreign intelligence related to the national security is currently being collected and evaluated by one or another government department.

So the problem of assuring the development of an effective national intelligence system becomes one primarily of coordinating the activities of the departmental intelligence agencies to insure that each collects, evaluates, and disseminates that share of national intelligence which is the responsibility of that department. To perform this coordinating function, as well as to perform certain services of common concern which are more efficiently accomplished centrally, a central intelligence agency is required. The central intelligence agency should be organized and function as follows:

1. The central intelligence agency should be independent of any department of the government and should be directly under the President, possibly established as a portion of his Executive Office, but serving such other agencies as he may direct.
2. The central intelligence agency should be authorized by act of Congress, in order to give it a firmer base. The statutory legislation should indicate its functional responsibilities and those of the other national intelligence agencies.
3. The director of the central intelligence agency should serve as a civilian, appointed by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and responsible only to the President. He should be advised on policy matters by a board consisting of the heads of the State, War, and Navy Department intelligence agencies, and of other departmental intelligence agencies as needed. Similar interdepartmental groups of specialists from these agencies should be established as needed at working levels within the framework of the central intelligence agency to determine plans, programs and procedures on each phase of national intelligence activity and to collaborate on specific intelligence problems.

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The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency should be a civilian, and his personnel, who should be a select group of professionally trained individuals. Such salaries and conditions of service shall be prescribed in the laws which will attract to this agency the best qualified personnel.

5. The functions of the central intelligence agency should be:

a. To coordinate the intelligence activities of all government agencies to insure that there is maximum effective coverage of all pertinent subjects concerning foreign countries. For this purpose,

(1) The central intelligence agency shall work out with the intelligence agencies concerned the proper responsibilities of each in the fields of collection and research in order to insure the maximum concentration of effort by each agency on subjects of primary concern to its department, to reduce to a minimum the duplication of effort between agencies, and to prevent any omission in coverage of essential subjects.

(2) The central intelligence agency shall establish procedures to insure the free flow of intelligence from each agency to all other interested agencies.

b. To perform such services of common concern to other intelligence agencies as can best be performed centrally or which are not a proper activity of any one agency, including the operation of an organization to collect such information anywhere abroad as can be collected only by special means, and to conduct counter-intelligence activities outside the United States.

c. To prepare such estimates as are required as a basis for national policy decisions of a politico-military nature and transcending the exclusive competence of any particular department.

(1) In the preparation of these strategic estimates the central intelligence agency shall make full use of estimates prepared by the interested departmental intelligence agencies.

(2) In the presentation of these strategic estimates the central intelligence agency shall indicate any differences in evaluation therein from the estimates prepared by the contributing intelligence agencies.

(3) Since these are based on full use of departmental research personnel, the central intelligence agency need have only a small but highly qualified research staff of its own.

6. The central intelligence agency should be charged with advising the appropriate agencies through the President on domestic security matters.

7. The central intelligence agency should have no police functions and no domestic counter-intelligence functions.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

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OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

From	To	
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR		ACTION
Asst. Director		RECOMMENDATION
Deputy Asst. Director		SIGNATURE
EXECUTIVE STAFF		INFORMATION
Executive		RETURN
Administrative Assistant		PREPARATION OF REPLY
Recording Desk		DIRECT REPLY
Personnel & Administrative Div		COMMENT
PLANNING STAFF		FILE
Chief		NOTE
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Remarks:

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